

**Draft Summary of the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting  
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)  
April 21, 2003**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group on April 21, 2003 in Oroville.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Flip Chart Notes
Attachment 4	Operations Model Documentation
Attachment 5	SP-L5 Fuel Load Management Presentation
Attachment 6	Existing Land Use Types in the Oroville Project Study Area
Attachment 7	Aesthetics Report – Appendix A: Key Observation Point (KOP) Descriptions and Conditions

### **Introduction**

Attendees were welcomed to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. The participants reviewed the desired outcomes of the meeting. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Meeting flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3.

### **Action Items – March 24, 2003 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting**

A summary of the March 24, 2003 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

- Action Item #LU55:** Review fuel load management issues and provide an update to the Work Group. Present fuel load reduction techniques for discussion.
- Status: A presentation was given to the Work Group at the last meeting and additional information pertaining to fuel load reduction techniques was requested at that time. A revised presentation is scheduled for later at this meeting. Further information on the presentation and discussion is provided below.
- Action Item #LU56:** Provide a history and status of grazing leases in the Project Area.
- Status: Jim Martin, Resource Area Manager (RAM) for DWR provided information on the only DWR grazing lease in the project area. The 417 acres of lease area is located adjacent to the Diversion Pool, it is a five-year lease (1999-2004), and the value of the lease is \$3,600 per year. DWR staff has visited the lease area and state that the vegetation on the site is in good condition. Staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) expressed their concerns with the presence of cattle in the area and reported that they can be intimidating to site visitors including trail users. Roads and trails cross through the leased property. Other potential problems may be cow dung near areas where people recreate may be an issue depending on the time of year (e.g., flies during the summer months) and there are trespass issues with cattle

on nearby properties. DPR requested a copy of the lease and DWR agreed to provide it after clearing it with DWR's Division of Land and Right of Way.

**Action Item #LU57:**

Status:

Provide an update on the BLM land transfer project.

Jim Martin provided an update on the BLM land transfer project; representatives from BLM were also at the meeting and provided additional information. The lands in question total approximately 7,000 acres, and are in numerous parcels ranging in size from 20 to 800 acres. Two methods have been identified to complete the transfer: (1) legislation, and (2) Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP). The legislative option requires an act of Congress, and the lands would be transferred in fee. However, it is considered a "wild-card" in that there is no guarantee that Congress would act on this type of bill. The R&PP has been used historically by DWR and DPR. It is used for conveying lands for recreational purposes.

This process would require environmental studies to fulfill NEPA/CEQA requirements. These studies include cultural, geologic (mineral), timber, and sensitive species evaluations. Some of these evaluations have already been completed or are planned on some portion of these lands. The benefits of the land transfer include removing an in-holder on FERC Project 2100 lands, which would facilitate management and the provision of recreation opportunities. These lands are of interest to other work groups, particularly the Cultural Resource Work Group, because the area is known to contain cultural sites. Local Native American tribes are interested in using and/or acquiring some of these lands. The Recreation and Socioeconomics and the Environmental Work Groups are also interested in PM&E opportunities associated with these BLM properties. DWR representatives will contact BLM to coordinate on cultural resource issues. The R&PP process is subject to public notification, and the public has the right to object to the transfer. This process also includes a reversion clause that stipulates if the land is not used for the intended purpose the property reverts to BLM.

There was discussion regarding which agency DPR or DWR should be named in the transfer. DPR noted it is the agency that submitted an application and questioned whether a transfer to DWR would be appropriate because DWR's primary mission is not recreation however; DWR provides diverse recreational opportunities throughout the State at its facilities. Under the Davis-Dolwig Act, 1963 recreation is one of the primary purposes of the State Water Project. BLM staff mentioned that an assignment of the application might be available from DPR to DWR.

The participants asked for clarification of the relationship between the land transfer and the relicensing process. Lands transferred from BLM may be a good area for the application of PMEs or provisions in the settlement agreement. These two processes are somewhat linked by the possible inclusion of Oroville Facilities Relicensing study material in BLM land transfer environmental documents. In addition, individual parcels could be omitted from an eventual transfer.

**Action Item #LU58:**

Status:

Develop a new set of land use categories to be used in SP-L1.

A new set of land use categories has been developed. Further information is presented in the context of the discussion on SP-L1 below.

**Review of Work Group and Plenary Group Meetings**

The Plenary Group did not meet in April 2003. The Engineering and Operations Work Group is planning a modeling workshop in June 2003 to present and discuss operations-related models. The Plenary Group's Modeling Protocol Task Force has prepared a summary of operations models used in the relicensing process (see Attachment 4) that was distributed to the participants. More information will be available closer to the workshop date.

### **SP-L5 (Fuel Load Management)**

Mark Greenig presented a revised fuel load study overview via a PowerPoint presentation (see Attachment 5). Please refer to the attachment for specific details on this study. Information added to this version of the presentation includes fire origin data and fuel load reduction techniques. CDF indicated that better data on historic fires is available, including full fire perimeters (note CDF is only required to document fires that meet certain fuel/size criteria).

Areas of concentrated human (recreation and residential) use are plotted on a map of the study area. The Work Group was asked to review the areas mapped and confirm that they represent concentrated use because these areas will be subject to further analysis. These areas will be considered in the context of potential treatment options. Not all of the treatment options described in the presentation are applicable to the project area; the consultant team will coordinate with CDF on applicable treatment options. The use of herbicide to reduce fuel load has been identified as a sensitive issue. CDF indicated that shaded fuel breaks are a good option they have used extensively. One of the LUWG members expressed a desire to include cost data associated with the various fuel load reduction techniques. CDF also indicated that the land in the project area is generally not ready for prescribed fires. Evacuation route information is included in local plans, and will not be focused on in this study.

DPR staff would like the City of Oroville to be represented as a sensitive fire area. DPR staff would likely be the agency responsible for implementing fuel load reduction techniques on lands they manage at the Project. DPR staff considers natural processes (i.e., how to mimic natural situations) in their fuel planning; this option will be considered in this study. Liability issues should be discussed. An interim report (approximately 70 percent complete) on SP-L5 will be submitted to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group in June and the final report is expected in July or August 2003.

### **SP-L1 (Land Use)**

Steve Pavich with EDAW provided an overview of the revised land use categories to be used in delineating land uses for SP-L1 (see Attachment 6). The major categories include: Urban, Rural, Conservation, Recreation, Undeveloped, Other, and Reservoir/Open water; sub-categories are included under most of the major land use types. The categories and information are based in part, on the vegetation mapping completed by DWR, as well as a range of other land use mapping sources. The interim report will include detailed descriptions of each land use category. The discussion focused on the recreation land use type. There were concerns that the breakdown of developed versus passive recreation areas was not completely accurate. The concept of including only one general recreation category was proposed and will be considered. Recreation facilities will be identified on the map. The conservation category was also discussed and participants noted that many areas shown as conservation also provide recreation; this distinction will be noted in the text. Several minor mapping errors were pointed out and will be corrected.

### **Study Implementation Update**

Mark Greenig provided brief updates on the remaining three study plans, as described below.

### **SP-L2 (Land Management)**

This study is progressing, but is in its early stages because it is dependent on information collected and developed as part of SP-L1 and SP-L3. Coordination with local/state/federal and public agencies is ongoing. This study will characterize the relationships between these agencies, including formal and informal agreements.

### **SP-L3 (Comprehensive Plan Consistency)**

Descriptions of various comprehensive plans have been sent to the appropriate agencies for review. Feedback was received from almost all of the agencies, all of which felt that their plans

were characterized appropriately. No feedback or comments have been received from the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group on the Interim Report to date, but the Facilitator indicated several participants do have comments. Ultimately, this study will be used in evaluating the consistency of PME's with the comprehensive plans identified as being applicable to the project.

#### **SP-L4 (Aesthetics)**

The participants discussed the study appendix that lists and described all of the KOPs for the project (see Attachment 7). Additional high-pool elevation pictures may need to be taken depending on lake-level conditions this year. The labels of "low" and "high" pool in the appendix may be misleading because they do not truly represent maximum and minimum pool conditions; these descriptors will be refined to identify water surface elevation. The next step for this study will be the submittal of an interim report in the next few months.

#### **SP-L5 (Fuel Load Management)**

The next step in this study is for the consultant team to coordinate with CDF on acquiring additional information and data that is available. The submittal of an interim report is scheduled for May and the final report in July.

#### **Next Meeting and Next Steps**

The participants inquired about the process for the development of PME's or Resource Actions. The facilitator explained the development of the resource action identification forms and the three ways to submit the forms into the process: (1) submit the form to the appropriate Work Group; (2) submit the form to Rick Ramirez at DWR; and (3) develop the resource action in the context of the Work Group meetings. Target dates have been established, but there are no deadlines. The schedule for completion of the draft environmental analysis for the project is April 2004.

The next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting will be:

Date: Monday, May 19, 2003

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Location: Sacramento (videoconferencing may be available)

#### **Action Items**

The following list of action items identified by the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

**Action Item #LU59:** Send copy of grazing lease to Department of Parks and Recreation.

**Responsible:** DWR

**Due Date:** May 19, 2003